



471830

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FILE COPY

A.2

11/3/94

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

HSRW-6J

November 3, 1994

Dr. John Filpus
Division of Health Risk Assessment
Michigan Dept. of Public Health
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Dr. Filpus,

I was glad to meet you at the public meeting on the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site last month and look forward to future cooperation about this site. I'd like to bring to your attention a few inaccuracies and concerns I have about the MDPH fact sheet on the site which was distributed at the meeting. This fact sheet was already distributed to the public, but perhaps these items could be clarified in future reports. I list my concerns below.

Site History

Although the waste transfer station was included in early descriptions of the Site, during our investigations we determined that it was located off of the landfill and it operated after the landfill closed. Therefore, it is not part of the Superfund Site as we define it today.

On-Site Contamination

As far as I am aware, none of the partially exposed barrels contain wastes. The barrels which contain waste were all covered with soil following MDNR test pitting. This can be confirmed with the MDNR.

Off-Site Contamination

It may be confusing to the public to state that "Sampling of residential wells failed to provide evidence of any pattern of contamination related to the ASTL." This implies that U.S. EPA or MDPH think the residential wells are in fact contaminated, but we failed in our effort to find evidence.

How could I be exposed or harmed...

(Fifth paragraph) The last two sentences appear contradictory, or at least leave it unclear whether MDPH is warning people not to use the surface water. One sentence says "If you use surface water for recreation... you could be exposed to contaminants by direct contact or by eating fish." The other says "Water samples... have not been found to have contaminants associated with the ASTL site to this date."

(Last paragraph) These two sentences also appear contradictory or unclear about the actual extent of the hazard. "Methane gas located beneath the surface could collect in amounts posing an explosion hazard." and then "This possibility is very remote due to..."

MDPH Recommendations...

(Last bullet) The recommendation that "Sampling of surface water and sediments should be conducted to detect any site related contamination..." implies that this has not already been done. Is it MDPH's recommendation that the Remedial Investigation did not include adequate sampling?

Information Sources

The U.S. EPA contact and address are incorrect. They should be:

Leah Evison
U.S. EPA Region V (HSRW-6J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone (312) 886-4696

Please feel free to phone me if you have any questions about these comments or U.S. EPA's findings at the site.

Sincerely yours,



Leah H. Evison, Ph.D.
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Brendan Boyle, MDPH
Ted Havens, CCHD
Jim Myers, MDNR